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Letters Policy

The *Catholic Courier* wishes to provide space for readers throughout the diocese to express opinions on all sides of the issues. We welcome all signed, original letters about current issues affecting church life.

Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek, insofar as possible, to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters for publication based on likely reader interest, timeliness and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions of the letter writers.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. Mail them to: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624. Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.

DISCOVER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
St. Thomas the Apostle parent Mark Tellier (right) reads over a schools survey while Donna (left) and Christine Shore — a student at St. Cecilia's — listen to comments during a Nov. 22 meeting of Northeast Quadrant parents at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

Schools must be diocesan mission

To the editors:

It is sad! This is the end of what was once a bond among church family Catholic School. You close the Catholic school and you break that link, and the result is a disaster for the Roman Catholic Church in this country, which since the beginning has kept that bond, strange enough in worst times, including the depression times. At this rate there will be no more Catholic schools in this area, and in the future we will see churches closing also. We need to keep churches, schools, and families. Once our Catholic churches are gone and our Catholic schools are gone, they

will be History.

Let us become missionaries again, let us open up more and more Catholic schools. Let us help the new generation of Catholics by giving them a good start, a good Catholic education. All five of my children attended Saint Cecilia's, and Bishop Kearney.

The Diocese should start to be missionary again. Our good priests and nuns, with our help should work hard to encourage our young people to become priests and nuns.

Let's face it, some of the former priests and nuns from Rochester have set a bad example to our Catholic

community, more so to the young Catholics. Every Sunday sent a clear message to the young Catholics that of becoming priests and nuns is a beautiful way of doing God's work. By having more priests and more nuns we will have more churches, more Catholics and more Catholic schools. Let us invest the money that you collect for the Thanks Giving Appeal into the Catholic schools. After all, we should take care of our Catholic schools first.

Mario Provenzale
Maple Avenue
Rochester

Bring back the parish-based, K-8 schools

To the editors:

The Catholic Diocese had a wonderful school system, but it's fading fast.

The first mistake was to break up the eight year elementary schools, which provided stability, continuity and strong neighborhoods. Going the junior high route was disastrous.

Couldn't those in charge see how Catholic schools had held up neighborhoods wherever they were located? Strong neighborhoods bring social control; better communities.

When the Quadrant idea was started, it was expected what would follow: closing of some elementary

schools, because they lost in enrollment when they lost their upper grades. Educationally, they lost too. Putting teenagers under one roof, separate from the younger and older children, has been educationally questionable for years. "Teenage Tyranny" can blossom more easily under those circumstances.

In this day of drugs and violence, how Catholics can even think of closing schools is hard to fathom. In this day of lack of morals, is closing Catholic schools the answer? And doesn't anyone worry about the lack of priests and nuns? They are not "made" in

upper grades.

Parents should demand their old eight year elementary school back. Forget the quadrant. Sell the buildings and help the school that is most basic to Catholic education: the first eight years of education.

Also, parents should watch more closely how the public schools are spending their money. Taxes must be kept down, to help parents with private education.

Amelia Nugent
LaCroix Court
Rochester

Church's first priority should be educating its children

To the editors:

I listened with interest to Bishop Clark's (Thanksgiving Day) sermon at Sacred Heart this morning, and I began to think about all of the wondrous gifts which God has given to me and to my family. Among the many things for which I am truly grateful is the Catholic education which my family received at Sacred Heart school, and later at Nazareth Academy and Aquinas.

We are a family of three generations of Catholic school education and I believe that this gives us a perspective of life which is much more wholesome and spiritual — moral — than those families who have not had this advantage. Knowing this, I am saddened by the fact that this advantage may be denied to families in the future through the next proposed school closings.

I feel that the first priority of the

church should be the Catholic education of its children, especially in these troubled times. I would hope that (Bishop Clark) will reconsider the decision to close the schools in the Northeast Quadrant. I will pray daily that God will show Bishop Clark the wisdom to decide to keep the Catholic Schools open.

Virginia M. Leone
Gorsline Street
Rochester